



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU



Department of Infrastructure

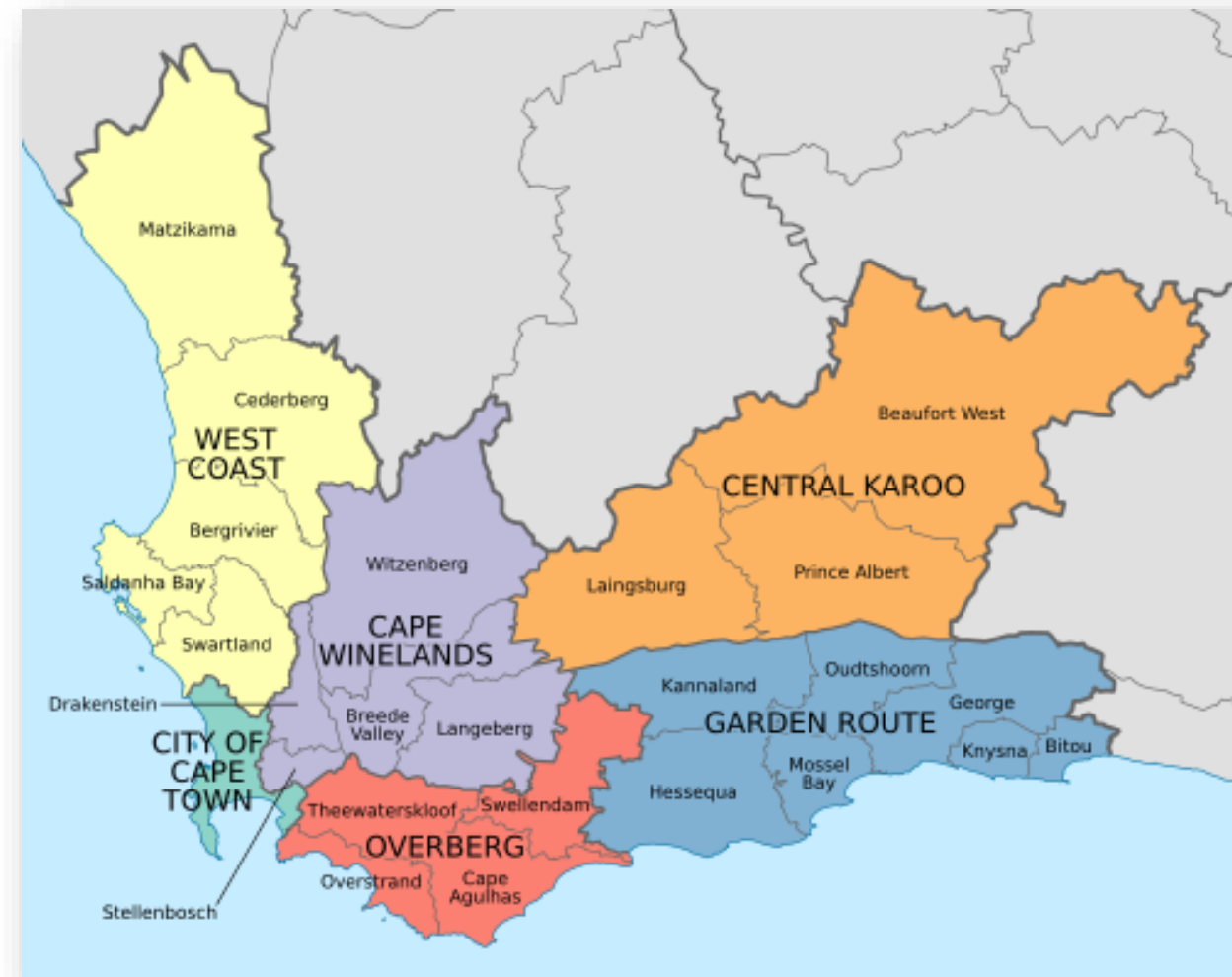
Weathering the storm: Road Infrastructure Resilience, Response and Recovery following the 2026 floods.

Christiaan Cronje (acting Director: RRS)

24 June 2026

Province overview

- Western Cape is broken up into 2 regions.
- Region 1: West Coast, Cape Metropole, Cape Winelands, Overberg
- Region 2: Central Karoo, Garden Route
- Surfaced roads Region 1: 5 330 km
- Unsurfaced roads Region 1: 13 385 km
- Surfaced roads Region 2: 2 269 km
- Unsurfaced roads Region 2: 11 610 km
- TOTAL ROAD LENGTH: 32 594 km



Severe Weather Events

- Two successive severe weather events affected the Western Cape between 5–13 May 2026.
- Both events were accompanied by SAWS Level 8 disruptive rainfall warnings, with additional warnings for flooding and damaging winds.
- Rainfall exceeded 300 mm in some Garden Route catchments, with widespread flooding across the province.
- A third event occurred while recovery from the first event had commenced, compounding damage and impacts.
- The events ultimately affected all five district municipalities and the City of Cape Town.

ORANGE LEVEL 8 WARNING

Valid from 06/05/2026 at 00:00 SAST until 07/05/2026 at 24:00 SAST

WEATHER TYPE
RAIN

WARNING KEY

Likelihood	Impact			
	Minimal	Minor	Significant	Severe
High	2	6	8	8
Medium	3	5	7	7
Low	4	4	6	6
Very Low	5	5	5	5

AFFECTED AREA: WESTERN CAPE

DISCUSSION

An intense Cut-off Low pressure system is expected to result in scattered to widespread showers and rain over the eastern parts of the Western Cape from Wednesday into Thursday. A Yellow Level 2 warning for disruptive rainfall is in place for the central interior of the Western Cape, as well as the Karoo Hoogland of the Northern Cape, while an Orange Level 6 warning is in place over the Central Karoo and western parts of the Garden Route. Severe impacts are possible over the eastern parts of the Garden Route (including George, Knysna, Bitou, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn) with an Orange Level 8 Warning for disruptive rainfall in effect, where possible 150 to 200mm of rainfall is likely.

IMPACTS

- Flooding of roads, formal and informal settlements which may lead to damage to property/infrastructure and displacement of vulnerable communities.
- Some communities temporarily not accessible/cut-off.
- Major disruption of traffic flow due to major roads being flooded and damaged could lead to increased travel time.
- Mudslides and rock falls, especially along mountain passes.
- Damage to property, infrastructure, loss of livelihood and livestock.

ORANGE LEVEL 8 & 6, YELLOW LEVEL 2

Valid from 10/05/2026 at 00:00 SAST until 12/05/2026 at 24:00 SAST

WEATHER TYPE
RAIN

WARNING KEY

Likelihood	Impact			
	Minimal	Minor	Significant	Severe
High	2	6	8	8
Medium	3	5	7	7
Low	4	4	6	6
Very Low	5	5	5	5

AFFECTED AREA: WESTERN CAPE

DISCUSSION

Two cold fronts are expected to affect the Western Cape. The first cold front is expected to make landfall on Sunday, while a second and more powerful frontal system will impact the province on Monday. These fronts are expected to result in disruptive rainfall and flooding impacts over the western parts of the Western Cape from Sunday until Tuesday (10-12/05/2026), with 3-day rainfall accumulations of 70-140 mm likely. An Orange Level 8 Warning is in place along the escarpment, where severe impacts are possible, particularly municipalities such as Drakenstein, Stellenbosch, City of Cape Town, the western parts of the Theewaterskloof, Breede Valley and Witzendberg local municipalities, where 100-200 mm is possible. Some mountainous regions may receive up to 200-300 mm in the 3-day period. Showers and thundershowers are likely to result in large amounts of small hail in places on Sunday.

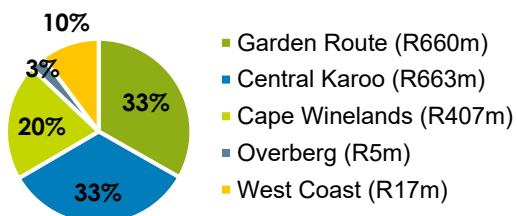
IMPACTS

- Flooding of roads, formal and informal settlements which may lead to damage to infrastructure and displacement of vulnerable communities.
- Danger to life (fast flowing streams / deep water) and some communities may be temporarily not accessible/cut-off.
- Major disruption of traffic flow due to major roads being flooded
- Mudslides and rock falls, especially along mountain passes.
- Damage to property, infrastructure, loss of livelihood and livestock.

Impact on Provincial Road Network

- Flooding, overtopping of roads, erosion, slope failures and structural damage resulted in widespread disruption to the provincial road network.
- More than 230 provincial roads were closed at various stages due to flooding and associated damage.
- Critical impacts included:
 - Road embankment and pavement layers damaged;
 - Damage to bridges, culverts and retaining structures;
 - Major rockfalls and slope failures in mountain passes;
 - Extensive damage to the gravel road network.
- At the peak of the event, numerous communities were isolated and key freight and economic routes were disrupted.
- Preliminary damage to provincial transport infrastructure is estimated at approximately R2 billion

(Prelim) Damage Cost



Immediate Response and Restoration Efforts

- In the immediate aftermath of the storms, the DOI activated emergency response teams and implemented road closures where necessary to protect public safety.
- Road Departmental Operations (DREs) and District Municipality teams were mobilised across affected areas to assess damage and restore emergency access.
- Initial efforts focused on:
 - Restoring access to cut-off communities;
 - Reopening critical transport and freight routes;
 - Clearing flood debris, rockfalls and fallen trees;
 - Undertaking temporary repairs to damaged roads and structures.
- Additional personnel, plant and equipment were redeployed from less affected regions to support response operations.
- Through these interventions, approximately 70% of the more than 230 roads closed during the storms have since been reopened in some form.
- To facilitate longer-term recovery, 19 emergency repair projects have been identified at critical locations across the provincial road network, with contractors already mobilised and works commenced on a number of these projects.



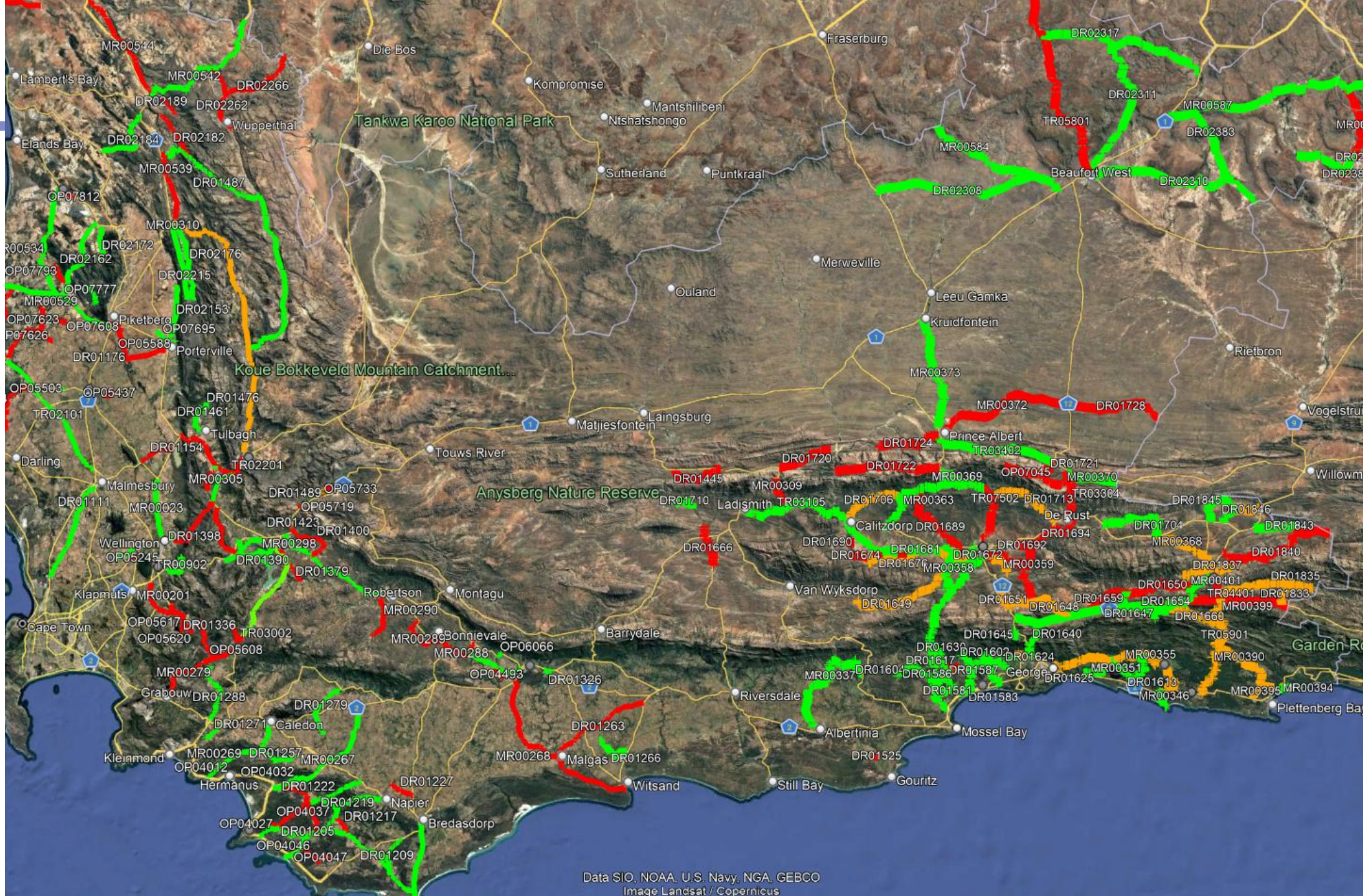
Road closures

12 May 2026



Road closures

20 June 2026



Recovery Challenge and Way Forward

- While emergency access has largely been restored, many roads and structures have sustained significant damage requiring major repairs or reconstruction.
- These repairs require detailed assessments, investigations and design before construction can commence.
- Recovery works will be prioritised and implemented in a phased manner, subject to available funding.
- Priority will generally be given to:
 - Critical economic and strategic routes;
 - Routes with no or lengthy detours;
 - High-volume traffic corridors;
- The scale of the damage substantially exceeds the Department's current budget and delivery capacity.
- Additional funding will therefore be sought, however full recovery of the provincial road network is expected to take many years.
- In the absence of such funding, resources will need to be diverted from planned maintenance and capital programmes, resulting in further deterioration of the broader road network and a growing maintenance backlog



Priority Projects

Project No.	Project Description	Type	Estimated Cost of Works (incl. VAT)	
C1140	Emergency repair works included under C1140 (DR1438 & DR1489)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	7,500,000.00
C1203.01	Emergency repair works included under C1203.01 (MR298))	Flood Damage (2026)	R	35,650,000.00
C1366.01	Emergency repair works to Bridge B4677 Rawsonville	Flood Damage (2026)	R	45,000,000.00
C1366.02	Emergency repair works to MR279 and DR1336 (Villiersdorp)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	25,000,000.00
C1366.03	Emergency repair works to DR1395 and DR1423 (Villiersdorp, Worcester)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	35,500,000.00
C1366.04	Emergency repair works to DR1400 from km 8.0 to km 22.4 (Worcester)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	60,000,000.00
C1366.05	Emergency repair works to B5983 on OP5719	Flood Damage (2026)	R	15,000,000.00
C1367.01	Emergency Repair Works on TR22/1-Michell's Pass and localised repairs to MR201 between km 0.0 and km 1.25	Flood Damage (2026)	R	22,500,000.00
C1367.02	Emergency repair works to Steel Bridge B3057 Bonnievale (Rooibrug)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	60,000,000.00
C1367.03	Emergency repair works to Bridge B3054 and Culvert C10326 Bonnievale	Flood Damage (2026)	R	25,000,000.00
C1368.01	Emergency repair works to MR401 (Uniondale)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	70,000,000.00
C1369.01	Emergency repair works to MR201 near Bainskloof Pass	Flood Damage (2026)	R	10,000,000.00
C1369.02	Emergency repair works to B5224 on MR305 km 5.94 near Wolseley	Flood Damage (2026)	R	8,000,000.00
C1369.03	Emergency repair works to B3061 along MR290 - Robertson to McGregor	Flood Damage (2026)	R	10,000,000.00

Priority Projects

Project No.	Project Description	Type	Estimated Cost of Works (incl. VAT)	
C1370.01	Emergency repair works to Meiringspoort	Flood Damage (2026)	R	421,000,000.00
C1370.02	Emergency repair works to Bridge B5576 - DR1525 Gouritzmond	Flood Damage (2026)	R	10,000,000.00
C1371.01	Emergency repair works to Steel Bridge B4828 Doringsrivier	Flood Damage (2026)	R	60,000,000.00
C1371.02	Emergency repair works to Bridge B2491A on TR16/1 (Vredendal) and B3200A on MR547 (Klawer)	Flood Damage (2026)	R	27,500,000.00
C1372	Emergency repair works to DR1487 - Uitkyk Pass and DR2182	Flood Damage (2026)	R	75,000,000.00



Mitchells Pass & MR201



McGregor Bridge





Meiringspoort



Meiringspoort





Cango Caves





Villiersdorp MR 279



MR401 Uniondale to Avontuur



MR401 Uniondale

